

Final Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
February 2, 2023
1-3PM

Hybrid Meeting – Mercer Island Community & Event Center

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Utility Representatives</u>	<u>SPU Attendees</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Patrick Sorenson, Chair	Boyd Benson	Hilary Allison	Charlotte Haines
Alex Chen	Bob Danson	Regina Carpenter	Patty Hale
Paula Laschober	Jeremy Delmar	Julie Crittenden	Pam Maloney
Andrew Lee	Pete Eberle	Kathy Curry	Darcey Peterson
Diane Pottinger	Abdoul Gafour	Ian Fitz-Patrick	Kathleen Quong-Vermiere
Shane Young	Steve Leniszewski	Terri Gregg	Ron Ricker
Ron Little, 7 th Member	Michael Martin	Lynn Kirby	Robert Russell
	Suzi O'Byrne	Brent Lackey	Carla Synder
	Jorgan Peadon	Ky Lewis	Ron Straka
	Jane Vandenberg	Maura Patterson	Logan Wallace
			Max Woody

1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Kathy Curry, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Wholesale Water Contracts Manager, completed a roll call of Operating Board (OB) Members and confirmed there was a quorum to begin the meeting. Kathy welcomed the new Chair, Patrick Sorenson, and announced that Bob Danson has agreed to be the Small Utility Category Board Member Alternate. Kathy also explained the three utility categories (large, medium, small) that caucus together on Operating Board decisions.

2. Agenda/Minutes

a) The December 1, 2022, minutes were *approved 6-0*.

b) The February 3, 2023, agenda was *approved 6-0*.

3. New Business

a) Facilities Charges

Regina Carpenter, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Principal Economist, shared information on Facilities Charges (FCs) update options. A discussion ensued to clarify the mechanics of the allocation of revenues through new connections via rates or FCs, and the transfer of FC revenues to offset rates. There was also discussion about future growth and climate change impacts (i.e., no snowpack) and the ability to put FC revenues towards a future water supply option. It was noted that the most recently available Puget Sound Regional Council projection still anticipates growth for the Pacific Northwest. Alex Chen added that investing in conservation versus new supply is the cheaper option and has worked well, reminding members that we almost bought into the Tacoma Second Supply Line and then decided not to which was economically beneficial to us. Patrick Sorenson added that conservation has more than paid for itself, noting it is by far the cheapest way to build out new supply. It was noted that this topic will come back to the OB at the upcoming March 2 meeting and that it is currently planned that the OB will have an opportunity to vote on FC update options at one of the upcoming OB meetings with the timing dependent on when the OB says that they are ready to vote.

b) Lead & Copper Rule Revisions

SPU's Lynn Kirby, Water Quality Engineer, provided an update on recent Washington State Department of Health (DOH) guidance for developing and maintaining a Service Line Inventory. A discussion followed about customer-owned service lines and methods for gaining information on that side of the meter. Lynn explained how this is a challenge for Seattle, which has over 200,000 service lines with no records on the private side. She added that to make the inventory process more manageable, SPU has researched issues such as when, and in what circumstances, lead was used. Information gathered will be used by Seattle to help make the case to DOH that there is no need to inventory pipes installed after 1968 when lead was no longer allowed in Seattle and King County, and there is no need to inventory pipes with a diameter larger than 4-inches because lead was not used on pipes of this size. It was noted that WA State did not ban lead material in pipes until 1986 or 1988.

Lynn Kirby further relayed that DOH is expected to produce added guidance on alternative methods to determine unknown pipe materials. In the meantime, SPU is looking into a predictive model that randomly selects locations that might be lead (<4" diameter and installed before 1968 only). OB members and representatives generally agreed that a coordinated communication with DOH would be helpful to them as well. Lynn will come back to talk with the group when there is more information to discuss on this topic.

c) Tolt Reservoir Log Boom Improvement Project

SPU's Ian Fitz-James, Senior Civil Engineer, provided an update on the Tolt Reservoir Log Boom Improvement Project (C117069). There was a question, and subsequent discussion, about the rationale for proposed boom project materials. There was also a question about how much debris makes its way into the reservoir. Alex Chen said that it varies, but said that the debris is from natural causes, as opposed to logging, and is seasonal (fall/winter).

There were also questions about whether the existing boom will last until the new boom is installed and questions about the expected design life of the new boom. Ian Fitz-James explained that while the existing boom is at the end of its design life, via typical wear and tear, SPU staff conducts frequent inspections and occasional maintenance to ensure workability, so, there is no concern about the existing boom lasting until the new boom is in place.

As part of his presentation, Ian also relayed that the new boom will be installed at new anchor locations that are intended to reduce wear and tear of the new boom. During the meeting, Ian said the anticipated design life of the new stainless-steel boom is expected to be longer than the current boom design, which was installed in the 1990s and, following the meeting, Ian shared that the design life is estimated to be 50 years.

d) Cedar River Pipeline Seismic Project Update

SPU's Ian Fitz-James, Senior Civil Engineer, shared information on the options analysis and recommended option for the Cedar River Pipeline Seismic Project in Renton (C600768). A discussion followed around the time it takes to shut off a 61" pipe. Ian Fitz-James explained that once the location is isolated with valves upstream and downstream of the valley, it usually takes a few days to drain it and a week to refill it.

There were also questions about the regional pipelines in general, if they have reached the end of their useful life, and if SPU is pursuing federal grant money. Alex Chen said that the transmission pipelines are under a typical rehabilitation cycle and still have a couple decades left. He said that SPU is pursuing federal money, including SRF loans and FEMA BRIC grants, and is hiring a new person to lead that effort for SPU. Darcy Peterson added that FEMA just updated the BRIC criteria to include earthquakes. Alex Chen agreed to follow up with Darcy on the new criteria.

4. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over the graphs on Attachment 4a relaying that water sales are normal.
- **Water Supply Update** – Alex shared that consumption is normal; storage is a little low but good.

5. Future Meetings

Kathy Curry provided reminders for the following upcoming Operating Board meetings:

- March 2nd – Remote, online regular monthly meeting (1 to 3 pm)
- April 6th – In-person CIP workshop at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center (10 am to noon)
- April 6th – Hybrid, in-person, regular monthly meeting at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center (1 to 3 pm)
- May 11 - Remote online regular monthly meeting (1 to 3 pm).

6. Good of the Order – none raised.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Approved by:



Chair, Patrick Sorenson
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

March 6, 2023
Date